

DOCKET NUMBER: 64230-00005USD2
PATENT**IN THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-32 (canceled)

Claim 33. (previously presented) A method for treating monolithic bone intended for implantation to and subsequent packaging and maintain such strength during the storage of the bone, the method comprising:

- a) contacting the bone with a mechanical strength-conserving amount of at least one biocompatible mechanical strength-conserving agent, said agent being a liquid organic material which is capable of penetrating and remaining in the bone during its lyophilization, packaging and storage;
- b) lyophilizing the bone containing the mechanical strength-conserving agent; and,
- c) packaging the lyophilized bone.

Claim 34. (previously presented) A lyophilized monolithic bone implant containing at least one biocompatible mechanical strength-conserving agent, said agent being a liquid organic material which is capable of penetrating and remaining in the bone during its lyophilization, packaging and storage.